

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00402 071456Z

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SUBJECT: RADICALS MEET IN FLORENCE

1. SUMMARY: RADICAL PARTY MEETING HELD IN FLORENCE AGREED TO SEEK FORMAL FEDERATION WITH SOCIALIST PARTY. MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED EFFORTS TO ABOLISH CONCORDAT AND PROMOTE RIGHTS FOR POLICE, SOLDIERS, CHILDREN, HOMOSEXUALS, ET AL. END SUMMARY.

2. RADICAL PARTY , WHICH PREVIOUSLY NOTED FOR ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF DIVORCE, ABORTION AND LIBERALIZATION OF DRUG LAWS, HELD 15TH NATIONAL CONGRESS IN FLORENCE NOVEMBER 1-4. PARTY WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY OPERATED AS PRESSURE GROUP ON REGULARLY ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES DISCUSSED AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED, AFTER HEATED DEBATE, PROPOSAL TO FEDRATE WITH ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI). STATED REASON FOR THIS IS EFFORT TO HELP PSI REACH MAGICAL 20 PERCENT OF VOTE DETERMINED NECESSARY TO

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PAGE 02 FLOREN 00402 071456Z

MAKE CREDIBLE IDEA OF 'ALTERNATIVE OF LEFT'. RADICALS

POSED THREAT TO ENTER NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS UNDER THEIR OWN BANNER IF PSI REFUSED THEIR OFFER AT SOCIALIST'S FORTHCOMING CONGRESS. AFTER LATE MEETING NOVEMBER 3 TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION TO FEDRA EEE FEDERATION IDEA, FAVORABLE MOTION PASSED NOVEMBER 4 (374-15). PARTY SECRETARY ALSO AUTHORIZED TO CONSULT ON REGULAR BASIS WITH PDUP AND LEFT WING EXTREMIST GROUPS, LOTTA CONTINUA AND AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA.

3. RADICALS DISCUSSED WIDE RANGE OF TOPICAL ISSUES, SUCH AS THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A REFERENDUM TO ABOLISH THE CHURCH-STATE CONCORDAT AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF THEMES SUCH AS FEMINISM, RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS, POLICE UNIONS AND THE ABOLISHMENT OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS. TEN YEAR OLD DELEGATE EEE 'DELEGATE' MADE PROPOSAL FOR SOMETHING CALLED 'CHILDRENS RIGHTS' AND THIS TAKEN UP AS NEW ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: RADICALS REPORTEDLY CONSIST OF 2000 PLUS MEMBERS COMPOSED OF 82 SECTIONS (29 OF WHICH HAVE OFFICES SCATTERED AROUND ITALY BUT LARGELY CLUSTERED IN THE NORTH. IF ATTENDANCE AT THE CONGRESS IS ANY INDICATION, MOST MEMBERS ARE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, A MAJORITY BEING FEMALES (WITH BRA BURNERS IN DOMINANCE). WHILE THE SOCIALISTS PUBLICLY HAVE BEEN COOL TO THE IDEA OF A FEDERATION OF PARTIES, THE THREAT OF A SEPARATE LIST FOR THE RADICALS WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD APPEAL TO AT LEAST SOME OF THE SOCIALIST ELECTORATE MAY BE A FACTOR WHEN THE PSI SI EEE DISCUSSES THE OFFER.
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